

-45-

**MACRO CELL FOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT PHYSICAL LAYER
INTERFACE**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A macro cell is provided for an integrated
5 circuit design having an input-output (IO) region
with a plurality of IO buffer cells physically
dispersed with other cells in IO slots along an
interface portion of the IO region. The macro cell
includes a plurality of macro cell IO signal slots
10 that are physically dispersed so as to substantially
align with the IO buffer cells in the interface
portion. The macro cell also includes an interface
definition having a plurality of interface IO signal
nets, which are routed to corresponding ones of the
15 plurality of macro cell signal slots. The macro cell
is adapted to be instantiated as a unit in the
integrated circuit design.